Power crisis in Karnataka

711. SHRI H. K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is facing severe power crisis and is not able to provide quality power to rural lighting and pump-sets, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Central Government propose to set up coal-based power plant in the State;

(c) if so, the details of proposed plant cost and anticipated production of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April, 2001—January, 2002 the energy requirement in Karnataka was 26509 Million Units (MUs) while the availability was 23268 MUs representing a shortage of 12.2%. As per information available, as on 31st December, 2001, 26756 villages have been electrified out of total inhabited villages of 27066 (1991 census) and 1286185 pump-sets energized against an estimated ultimate potential of 1357000 electrical pump-sets in Karnataka. However, supply and distribution of power to various categories of consumers including supply to rural lighting, pump-sets etc. in the State is under the purview of State Government.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no proposal for setting up a coal-based power plant in the State in Central Sector.

Need for allocation of power to Karnataka from unallocated share of Central Government

712. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India is aware of the acute shortage of power in Karnataka State due to demand-supply gap;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is aware of the requests of Karnataka for allotment of 100 MWs, of power from unallocated share of Central Government; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry has considered the request of Government of Karnataka, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) During the period April, 2001—January, 2002, Karnataka faced energy shortage of 12.2% and peaking shortage of 20%.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. All the States in the Southern Region have been facing power shortage mainly due to low hydro generation in view of the reduced rainfall in the catchments of hydro power stations in the Southern Region during the last season. Karnataka has already been allocated 28% out of unallocated quota of Central Sector Stations in the Southern Region. 80 MW has also been allocated from Nevyeli TPS-II to the State. In addition, Karnataka has been allocated 106 MW of power from the Central Sector Stations in the Eastern Region.

Scaling down of capacity addition target by NTPC

713. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the NTPC scaled down its capacity addition target for 2001-2002 from 20,000 MW to 8000 MW;

(b) if yes, what are the reasons for such a radical climb down from the original target; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) No, Sir. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. has not scaled down its capacity addition target for 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of above.

Inability of SEBs, to recover its costs

714. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no State Electricity Board is recovering the full cost of power supplied and as a result they are making continuous losses on their operations;

(b) if so, the magnitude of such losses, State-wise;